GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2085
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2002
IRRADIATION TECHNOLOGY
RAJO SINGH;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the fact that IrradiationTechnology has been gainfully employed in various developed countries to protect the harvest during storage to enhance the shelf life of the harvested produce;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have any scheme to set up a net work of IrradiationCentres on these lines throughout the country to prevent wastage of foodgrain and other harvest during storage;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in pursuance thereof;

(d) whether Bhabha Atomic Research Centre`s assistance has been sought for development of Irradiation Technology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b),(c),(d)&(e): At present, the Government has no scheme to set up a network of irradiation centers throughout the country. However, based on the technologies developed at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), one demonstration plant for irradiation of spices is working at Vashi, Navi Mumbai and another demonstration plant for irradiation of onions is being set up at Lasalgaon, Nasik, Maharashtra. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) hasentered into Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with quite a few private entrepreneurs for establishing facilities for irradiation of onions.